

Workingmen's Houses,
Adam P. Berg House
770 Dodge Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-AX

*HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-AX-*

DRAWINGS

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Site Location: 770 Dodge Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 3.10
Cadastral grid : NW1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691480.4706740
Lot dimensions : 39'2"x 150' : .13 acre
Lot description: Lot 1 of North 150' of Lot D of
Cooper's Addition of Out Lot 727
Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation
Present Usage: single-family residence
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: 2-story main block: 26'5"x 20'1"; side porch: 12'8"x 5'0".
Orientation : northwest
Architectural Plan type : rectangular, with corner stair; 2 stories.
Description : Foundation: coursed limestone perimeter walls.
Structure : wood frame with masonry bearing walls in front section.
Ext. walls: front: painted brick laid in running bond;
rear: painted wood beveled siding with plain corner boards and trim.
Roofs : asphalt shingled, moderately pitched gable on main section; shallowly pitched hip over side porch.
Chimneys : one brick interior chimney slightly offset from roof ridge.
Dormers : none
Windows : painted wood 1/1 double hung windows with segmental brick arch heads and stone lug sills (front) and plain wood enframements (rear); two 1 awning windows with brick surrounds on the front at basement level.
Porches : hip-roofed open porch with modest molded trim and plain square columns (replacement).
Details : boxed and molded cornices on main and porch roofs.

Construction Date : c.1890

Architecture Style: Gable-ended box

Physical History : Dubuque industrialist and real estate speculator Augustus A. Cooper platted Cooper's Subdivision of Out Lot 727 in August 1852. Cooper immediately sold Lot D to grain dealer James Rowan, who built a house on the south side of Dodge Street for himself. Twenty-six years later Rowan sold the

north 150' of the lot to Ellen Ahern. In 1890 Patrick Clancy bought the land from Ahern, immediately subdivided it into three lots, and sold Lot 1 to Adam P. Berg for \$350. Berg, a painter, built this two-story house on his lot sometime before 1894. Physical evidence indicates that the brick front section and the wood-sided frame rear section were constructed as a single unit. Berg lived in the house with his wife Mary until 1910, at which time he sold it to Clifton Trewin. Trewin, a real estate agent, sold it four years later to John J. Nagle, who in turn sold it in 1916 to James J. Lynn. Trewin, Nagle and Lynn each rented the house to a series of tenants before Dubuque policeman James W. Corbett purchased it in the 1940s. Corbett, and later his widow, lived in the house until its acquisition in 1987 by the Iowa Department of Transportation for demolition. The building appears today much as it did originally, with the only noteworthy alterations involving replacement of components of the side porch.

Significance: The Adam Berg House is one of the last houses built along this section of Dodge Street at the end of the 19th century. Though scaled similarly to other nearby houses, this building is unusual in its use of brick on the front section, its combination of brick and wood exterior siding and its use of a side entrance. The Berg House is a well-proportioned and well-preserved example of the simply styled workingman's house of the period.

References: Dubuque City directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-24-2-5-37.
Dubuque City Building Permit Record: 770 Dodge Street.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames Iowa.

Compiler: Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado.
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